

# THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE

(ESTABLISHED 1877.)

PUBLISHED WEEKLY.

One Dollar per Year,

variably in Advance.

Six months, 75 cents. No subscription for a less period received.

## SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT.

MONEY and so, otherwise than by registered letter, postal money order, or draft on New York, will be at the risk of the sender.

ADVERTISING.—We employ no agents. THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE has many subscribers, and they are generally honest and faithful; but persons who confide their subscriptions to them must be their own judges of their responsibility. The paper will be sent only on receipt of the subscription price.

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CORRESPONDENCE.—Correspondence is solicited from every section of the country. Reports on the military, political, industrial and household matters, and letters to the Editor will always receive prompt attention. Write on ONE SIDE of the paper only. We do not return communications or manuscripts unless they are accompanied by a request to that effect and the necessary postage, and under no circumstances guarantee their publication at any price.

THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE, Washington, D. C.

ENTERED AT THE POST OFFICE AS SECOND CLASS MATTER.

# THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE

WASHINGTON, D. C., MAY 3, 1888.

## A GREAT STORY COMING.

We take pleasure in announcing that we have secured a magnificent serial story from the pen of the most popular living writer for young folks. Upon Col. Knox's shoulders has fallen the mantle of the late Capt. Mayne Reid. The Colonel was a gallant soldier, and in his latest story, written exclusively for THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE, he carries two young heroes over ground he fought upon himself a quarter of a century ago. The narrative reaches its climax in the famous battle of Pea Ridge with the defeat of the celebrated Ben McCulloch, who fell there, and his horrible butchery of the Union wounded by the Indians in the rebel service.

The Colonel was wounded in Missouri, where he saw double service as a soldier and war correspondent for the New York Herald.

In speaking of him, Appleton's Cyclopaedia says:

His letters from the seat of war were republished under the title of "Campfire and Cottonfield" (New York, 1875). In 1876 he went on a journey around the world as a newspaper correspondent. In Siberia, where he accompanied an expedition that was sent out by an American company to build a telegraph line, he traveled 5,000 in sledges and 1,400 miles in wagons. The narrative of his journey was republished under the title of "Overland through Asia" (Harford, 1879). He went to Ireland in 1875, and telegraphed the score of the international rifle match at Hollymount by means of a device of his invention, indicating, by the use of Morse signals, the spot in which each ball struck the target. This he developed into a system of telegraphical telegraphy, which he sold to the United States Government for the transmission of weather maps. In May, 1877, he set out on a second voyage around the world, arriving at Paris in time to serve as a member of the International Jury at the Paris Universal Exposition of 1878. Besides the works already mentioned, he is the author of "Underground Life" (Harford, 1873); "Backwoods" (1875); "The Boy Travelers in China and Japan" (New York, 1879); followed by a similar volume on "Siam and Java," for which the King of Siam conferred on him the Order of the White Elephant (1880); "How to Travel" (1880); "The Young Men in South America" (1880); "The Boy Travelers in Ceylon and India," and "Pocket-Guide for Europe" (1881); "The Young Men in Europe, Asia and Africa"; "The Boy Travelers in Egypt and the Holy Land," and "Pocket-Guide Around the World" (1885); "The Boy Travelers in Africa" (1888); "The Voyage of the Vindicator to the North Pole and Beyond" (1881); "Lives of Blaine and Logan" (Harford, 1884); "Moral Poets for Boys and Girls" and "The Boy Travelers in South America" (New York, 1885); "Robert Fulton and Steam Navigation" (1886); "Life of Henry Ward Beecher" (Harford, 1887); "Descriptive Battles since Waterloo" (New York, 1887); "Dog Stories" (New York, 1887); and "The Boy Travelers on the Congo" (1887).

We are about to begin the publication of the story, which will run many weeks.

Subscribers should send in their names at once, so as not to miss its thrilling opening chapters. It is worth alone many times the price of the paper for a year.

THE G. A. R. has persistently demanded that no man who served his country faithfully should be humiliated by consignment to the poorhouse. The Matson bill wants to make a compromise on the humiliation, and administer it in broken doses.

## SOME NINE-MONTHS MEN.

The admirably-written history of the siege of Port Hudson, which we publish this week, pays a well deserved tribute to the 15th N. H., the 26th Conn., and other nine-months regiments which fought through that bloody and arduous campaign with the courage and fortitude of veterans. They left a frightful proportion of their number lying dead and mangled in front of the rebel works. They were of such good material that the General selected them to lead a grand storming column. Yet, under the mangling amendments proposed by Col. Matson, the men of these regiments who were broken down by the arduous marching, and laboring under a hot sun in that malarious region, would receive a paltry \$270 per month. If they have succumbed to the disease then implanted in their systems their widows will get a similar beggar's allowance.

Three men served a much longer time, did more hard fighting and suffered much more severely from climatic and other adverse influences than did the average Mexican volunteer, for whom Col. Matson secured \$8 a month last year.

Why is it worth \$8 a month to a man to have been a few weeks in camp during the Mexican war, and only \$270 to have been disabled by nine months of hard service in the miasmatic swamps of Louisiana?

Moral: Pass the G. A. R. Disability Bill, and then THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE Pension Bill.

Write at once to your Member of Congress demanding a vote upon general pension bills before taking the vote on the Mills bill to empty the Treasury.

## WE STILL HAVE FAITH.

We still have faith in Col. Matson.

In spite of the waste of five precious months we still believe that he will do something to secure the passage of the Disability Bill substantially as it came from the Senate.

When he comes to consider the matter he cannot help seeing that the mangling amendments are in no way right, just or acceptable to the veterans.

What is still more significant is that they go directly in the face of all his previous record, so as to make it seem impossible that they were his deliberate act.

For several years he was a strenuous advocate of the bill to give every man—rich or poor, sick or well—who served 60 days during the Mexican war \$8 a month, and last year he succeeded in securing the passage of the law.

He certainly cannot seriously intend giving the broken-down Union veteran, who served three months, 90 cents, when for two months of service the Mexican gets nearly nine times as much.

It is difficult to believe that he proposes to put off the widow of a Union veteran with 90 cents, or thereabouts, a month, while the widows of Gens. Pickett, Pillow, Bragg, and other rebels who served in Mexico were by his act put on the roll at \$8 a month.

Indeed, only last year he was earnestly pressing a bill to give disabled and dependent Union veterans \$12 a month and their widows the same.

We can think of nothing that can have been presented to his mind in the meanwhile, to make the Union soldiers appear less deserving than he thought them last year. He insisted with great eloquence and force in Committee-room and on the floor of the House in February and March, 1887, that the disabled veteran and the veteran's widow were entitled to \$12 a month. It is impossible that the merits of the saviors of the Union should have diminished so much inside of a year, as to convince him that 90 cents a month is nearer their deserts than \$12.

The only plausible explanation is that the amendments were the work of some vile enemy of the honorable Chairman, and that the Chairman himself having his mind absorbed by the condition of his gubernatorial fences, adopted them without considering them enough to comprehend them.

Since then he has unquestionably received much valuable information concerning them. His visit to Indiana has brought him in contact with comrades who have not been slow to express their opinions.

Besides this, he has seen THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE Pension Bill; numerous comrades have called his attention to it, and, thinking as he does, he cannot help recognizing its immense superiority to the amendments which bear his name, but which do him such great discredit, and which we are reluctant to believe are really his.

We say as we began: "We still have faith in Col. Matson."

We believe that he will yet realize that infinitely the best course is to put the Disability Bill through the House at once in substantially the form in which it was recommended by the Posts and the National Encampment of the G. A. R., abandoning his amendments altogether. Instead of these let him, as soon as the Disability Bill is passed, take up THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE Service Pension Bill and put it through.

He will have time enough to do this before Congress adjourns if he move at once, and does all that he knows well how to do to secure the prompt consideration of the measure. But he must move promptly.

## THE RESPONSIBILITY.

The rules of the House of Representatives, and the peculiar political conditions which now exist, put all pension legislation under the entire control of the Chairman of the Committee on Invalid Pensions—Col. C. C. Matson, of Indiana.

This control is absolute—despotic even, if he chooses to make it so. Every pension bill introduced into the House of Representatives is referred directly to his committee, and unless he chooses to do otherwise, it may sleep there until time, or at least Congress, shall be no more. He must decide when it shall be reported to the House, if ever; what sort of a report must accompany it, and what shall be done with it after it is reported. If it is merely placed on the calendar it is not necessarily in much better condition than when sleeping in the committee room. Its turn for consideration may never come, or if it come, it may be postponed indefinitely by somebody else crowding in another bill upon its time.

If the Chairman really desires the consideration and passage of a bill, he moves that its consideration be made the regular order for a certain day, and makes a struggle to secure this. When it is secured he arranges his forces for the day of debate, and brings the strongest men and the strongest arguments to bear upon the House to influence it his way.

If he does not want the bill to pass he does none of these things, and this neglect is fatal, for no one else can do what is made his special duty to do.

Another form of the despotic power given him is the right to call up a bill in which he has a special interest, under a suspension of the rules, and insist upon its passage without debate or amendment. This compels the other Members who may be in favor of some features of the bill, but opposed to others, to either vote for it in the particular form in which he has reported it to the House, or else go upon record as opposed to the whole of it.

Col. Matson has, therefore, had the power at any time since the opening of Congress to report the G. A. R. Pension Bill to the House,

to secure a day for its consideration, and to secure its passage, either with or without amendment, by proper use of the authority given him. There are enough declared friends of the veterans in the House to pass that and THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE Service Pension Bill at any time that he shall gain the opportunity for them to vote upon them. He is therefore directly responsible for the failure of the House to pass any general pension legislation thus far, and no one else can be held accountable for any further delay.

If, on the other hand, he shall, even at this late day, use his great power to secure the prompt passage of the Disability Bill in the shape that it came from the hands of the G. A. R. National Pension Committee and THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE Service Pension Bill, he will have, as he will deserve, the entire credit for his great service to the veterans.

We insist upon an early day being set for the consideration of these bills, with a full vote and an honest count.

## ADAMANTINE LIMITATIONS.

There are certain elementary facts which Col. Matson strangely ignored while mangling the Disability Pension Bill.

The first of these is that no man could do more than die for his country. And he could die but once.

If he died six months after his enlistment he gave "the last full measure of devotion" just as utterly and completely as if his death was postponed three or four years.

The same proposition applies with equal force to his physical breakdown. If he broke down—he broke down, no more, no less. He had done all he could—he had reached the last limit of his bodily powers. Whether this end came three months after enlistment, or six months, or 12 or 36 months is a minor consideration. The main one is that he did all he could—gave all he had.

In like manner his wife, who gave him to the country, gave all that she had. She gave the lover and husband of her youth, the father of her children—the support of herself and children. The greatness of her gift—the extent of her loss is wholly independent of whether he managed to survive three months of service or three years.

It is inconceivably cruel and unjust to try to measure and estimate these losses and deservings by a yard-stick divided into minor decimals.

The least that the Nation can, in honor and decency, give the men and women who gave it so much is \$8 a month during their lives.

To have it higgledy and chaffered—as Col. Matson's mangling amendments propose—offering this bereaved widow 90 cents a month in lieu of a lost husband, and that veteran \$1.80 in return for health wrecked in the swamps of the Mississippi or Chickahominy, is disgraceful parsimony and ingratitude.

Write at once to your Member of Congress demanding a vote upon general pension bills before taking the vote on the Mills bill to empty the Treasury.

A LITTLE COMPARISON.

The Mexican war began with a small engagement at Palo Alto, which was much trumpeted over at the time. The Americans had a force of 2,300 and the Mexicans 6,000. After five hours of cannonading and musketry the Americans retreated. Our loss was four killed and 40 wounded.

There was no more fighting until September, when Monterey was taken, and the next February the battle of Buena Vista was fought, which practically ended the work of the volunteers under Zachary Taylor.

Scott began his operations by the attack on Vera Cruz, March 9, 1847, and he occupied the City of Mexico Sept. 14 of the same year, making an active campaign of about seven months.

In all there were about 75,000 volunteers, enlisted for one year. But comparatively few of these ever saw a battle. The greatest number of volunteers that Taylor—who had most of them—had with him at any one time was 6,000.

In all there were only 23 skirmishes and battles, and the total loss of the volunteers was but 513 killed, 100 mortally wounded and 1,300 wounded. That is, less than one in 125 were killed or mortally wounded, and only one in 65 wounded.

Contrast this with the mortality in the war for the Union, where about one in every 50 whose names appear on the roll were killed in battle; one in every 12 died of disease, and one in every 10 was wounded in action.

In many instances not a man was killed in the whole of a State's quota in the Mexican war. Alabama, Florida, Iowa, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Jersey, North Carolina, Virginia and Wisconsin, sent in all nearly 10,000 men, of whom not one was killed or wounded. Texas had 8,018 in her quota, of whom but 46 were killed and 29 wounded—about as many as an ordinary regiment would lose during the late war in a single skirmish. Louisiana had 7,947, of whom but 15 were killed and eight wounded. Georgia had six killed and eight wounded in her quota of 2,132.

The average service of the Mexican volunteer was much less than six months. Comparatively few served out their enlistment of one year, while thousands of men never left camp. Of those who served out their enlistment of one year but 844 re-enlisted for a longer term, which is as much of a contrast to the veteranizing of 1864 as the 23 battles and skirmishes of the Mexican war are with the 2,290 engagements in the war for the suppression of the rebellion.

Yet Col. Matson was very firm and aggressive in his opinion that any man who served in the Mexican war was entitled to a life-pension of \$8 a month, with a similar allowance to his widow. He would now put off the Union veteran with 90 cents or thereabouts a month, with a like starvation allowance for his widow.

We agreed with Col. Matson when the Mexican Pension Bill was pending, that it was simple justice to give the men who acquired for us that immense domain \$8 a month, and we warmly supported the bill.

We now disagree with him because he rates the very much greater deservings of the Union soldier and his widow at so much less than those of the Mexican volunteer.

Write at once to your Member of Congress demanding a vote upon general pension bills before taking the vote on the Mills bill to empty the Treasury.

The wonderful labor of the mountain, which resulted in bringing forth a "ridiculous mouse," has been paralleled by the five months' incubation by the Invalid Pension Committee of a bill to give a crippled veteran three cents a day!

the pension provided for in this act, and to pay for the increased clerical force in the office of the Commissioner of Pensions, the Adjutant-General, and the United States Pension Agents herebefore authorized to be employed, and the same is hereby appropriated out of any moneys in the Treasury, not otherwise appropriated.

Sec. 9. That any agent, attorney, or other person instrumental in procuring any claim under this act who shall, directly or indirectly, contract for, demand, receive, or retain, for his services or instrumentality in procuring and prosecuting such claim, a greater sum than \$10 (payable only upon the order of Commissioner of Pensions, by the Pension Agent making payment of the pension allowed), or who shall wrongfully withhold from a pensioner or claimant the whole or any part of the pension or claim allowed and due such pensioner or claimant, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof shall, for every such offense, be fined not exceeding \$500, or imprisoned at hard labor not exceeding two years, or both, in the discretion of the court. Provided, That no fee whatever shall be allowed to any person whosoever in any case where an invalid pensioner is granted an increase under the provisions of this act.

Sec. 10. That all laws or parts of laws which conflict with the provisions of this act shall be, and the same are, hereby repealed.

It will be seen that the main features of the bill are:

1. Every man who served in the army for three months or more is to be put on the pension roll at the rate of one cent per month for every day that he served during the war.

2. No pension is to be less than \$8 a month.

3. Every widow of a soldier is to be placed on the roll at \$12 a month.

4. The clerical forces in the Pension Bureau, the Adjutant-General's Office and the Pension Agents are to be increased to the extent necessary to allow all the pensions granted under this bill inside of two years from the date of its passage.

We feel that it is unnecessary to offer arguments in favor of the bill. It commends itself on sight to every comrade.

The thing to do now is for every comrade to urge his Senators and Representatives to favor the passage of the bill, and to appeal to every political convention of his party to endorse and recommend it.

In this way its speedy success can be assured.

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## THE BOND PURCHASES.

The Secretary of the Treasury is complacently calling attention to the good results of a policy which THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE urged upon him months ago. He informs the public that since April 17 he has bought \$2,400,000 of 4½ per cent. bonds, which will save the country \$305,312.50 in interest, and \$1,285,650 of 4 per cents, which will save \$680,672.25 in interest, making a total purchase of \$3,775,650, and saving in interest of \$984,984.75. In making this estimate the Secretary has computed the interest for the entire periods the bonds will run, and deducted therefrom the premium he has paid.

The Secretary is commencing quite early to seek applause for his financing. Perhaps this comes from a painful consciousness of long-neglected duty, which hurries him to announce that he is now really doing what he should have done long ago.

A purchase of \$3,775,650 of bonds and a saving of \$984,989 in interest is a fair beginning, but it is only a beginning. There are \$30,544,000 of 4½ per cents—annual interest \$10,374,507—which are due in but little over three years, and the most of which he can get on very reasonable terms. THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE has urged him to devote the surplus to wiping these out, relieving the country of that much debt, saving an immense amount of interest, and restraining hundreds of idle millions to active circulation. He cannot pursue this policy too energetically. The country will welcome a great amount of energy in this direction to make up for lost time. He can use up the \$150,000,000 of surplus now on hand in this way to the best advantage.

Some will urge that it will not do to push the purchase of bonds too sharply, or they will be "cornered" and the price raised. There is not much in this fear. The \$230,544,000 of 4½ per cents are due Sept. 1, 1891. The United States can take them up then without any objection on the part of the holders. The interest that will be paid from now until then will be just 15 per cent. Of course the holders will make some concessions for the sake of having their money two or three years in advance, and it will be much better for the Secretary to pay them half their entire interest—7½ per cent. premium—or even 8, 9 or 10 per cent.—now than to keep the money lying idle in the Treasury and pay 15 when they are due. So far he has been able to get the bonds for a shade under 7 per cent. premium, which makes it an advantageous transaction for the Government, and an excellent one for the bondholders.

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## COMMISSIONER BLACK.

In some interesting reminiscences of President Lincoln, Col. Ward H. Lamson speaks especially about the great, sympathetic heart of the Martyr President, and how it was wrung by the horrors of war. He suffered particularly in the death upon the field of battle of so many of his personal friends among the Indiana and Illinois troops. Col. Lamson, continuing, says, with reference to two brothers, one of whom is now the honored Commissioner of Pensions:

The Black boys were notable among the multitude of eager youths who rushed to the field at the first call to arms. Their mother, the widow of a learned Presbyterian minister, had married Dr. Fithian, of Danville, Ill., and the relations between Dr. Fithian and his stepson were of the tenderest paternal nature. His pride in them and his devotion to them was the theme of the country side. Mr. Lincoln knew them well. In his frequent visits to Danville on the circuit he seldom failed to be the guest of that mother and the excellent Dr. Fithian. They were studious and industrious boys, earning with their own hands at least a part of the money required for their education. When Sumter was fired upon they were at Washburn College, Crawfordsville, Ind., and immediately enlisted as privates in the Crawfordsville Grays. Their career in the field needs no recital here. Mr. Lincoln watched it with intense interest. At the battle of Pea Ridge, having reached high rank, each brother, for some special act of gallantry, they both were decorated with the Medal of Honor. One of the boys of each other. Dr. Fithian hastened to them with a father's solicitude and nursed them back to life through fearful vicissitudes. They had scarcely returned to the army when the elder, John Ches Black, again fell, terribly mangled at Prairie Grove. He was hopelessly shattered, and is probably the worst-wounded survivor of the war, though he remained in the service and at the front until the last gun was fired. I shall never forget the scene when I took to Mr. Lincoln a letter, written by Dr. Fithian to me, describing the condition of the Black boys and expressing his fear that they could not live. Mr. Lincoln read it and broke into tears. "Here now," he cried, "are these dear brave boys killed in this cruel war. My God, my God! It is too bad! They worked hard to earn money enough to educate themselves. This is the end. I loved them as if they were my own. Their lives were worth more than the lives of all the rebels in America." With many more, passionate and tearful, to the same purpose. I took his directions about me to Dr. Fithian, and left him in one of the saddest moods I ever saw him in. He was feeling that unbearable sense of personal responsibility for the lives of these gallant men which I have spoken above.

## THE NEW CHIEF JUSTICE.

The President has at last put an end to the conjectures of the political gossips upon the appointment of a Chief Justice of the United States, by nominating Mr. Melville W. Fuller, of Chicago, for the position. The irony of fate decreed that Minister Phelps and Senator Gray, two candidates for the place, should be sitting on a sofa in the rear of the Senate Chamber at the time the message came from the White House, and they got the news at once. There were a great many inquiries as to who was Fuller. He had been scarcely so much as mentioned as a possibility. It was soon learned that, if not a great lawyer, he was at least "a good fellow," with a rich wife, and would be an important social acquisition to West End Washington. Although this may not appear very important, yet one familiar with life at the Capital will recognize the weight of the consideration, and the color it will give to comment by the correspondents on "the Row," who daily supply telegraphic opinion to the newspapers of the country.

Mr. Fuller's Democracy is described as being of the "silk-stocking" species. He is said to be a fair lawyer, although the exact

measure of the greatness of his legal attainments is not very clearly enunciated.

He is a native of Maine, 55 years old, and a graduate of Bowdoin College. He married the only daughter of the late banker Colburn, whose suicide at the foot of the Douglas Monument furnished Chicago a sensation some years ago. Physically, Mr. Fuller is picturesque. He is about the size of Mahone, of Virginia, and his head is crowned with a mane-like mass of silvery hair.

Altogether, while not a great man at all, he will, no doubt, be acceptable to the Senate, and be confirmed without more delay than is consonant with dignity.

## EXTRA COPIES.

Any subscriber who may get an extra copy of this week's NATIONAL TRIBUNE will understand that it is sent him to give to some acquaintance who is not a subscriber to the paper, but who should be.

He will confer a favor upon us, and directly benefit his comrades if he will take the trouble to call his acquaintance's attention to the many merits of the paper and its value to all veterans, and try to induce him to become a subscriber. By subscribing he will add to the paper's power for good, and strengthen its pleas for justice to the veterans. It is fighting the battles of all veterans, and every power possible should be given its arm. Of the non-subscriber into whose hands the paper may come, we ask a careful examination and a comparison of it with other weekly papers. We are sure that he will come to the conclusion that it is a most desirable weekly visitor to himself and family; that he will wonder how he could have done without it so long, and that it is worth very much more to him than the small sum required to pay for it for one year.

Let all do whatever lies in their power to build up the circulation of the paper, for that is the surest way of aiding the cause of the veterans' rights.

## THE ANNIVERSARY OF CHAMPION HILLS.

Comrades, remember that the 16th inst. is the 25th anniversary of the great victory of Champion Hills, the turning point of the Vicksburg campaign, and possibly of the whole war. The victory won that day decided the success of Grant's great movement to the rear of Vicksburg, decided that the Mississippi should be opened, the Confederacy cut in two, and that the National arms should triumph. Defeat there would probably have been but less to the cause of the Union.

The man who was most instrumental in winning that great victory was Gen. John A. Logan, our deceased comrade. The best way in which to celebrate the quarter-century of that momentous triumph, is by making it a "Logan Day," upon which shall be held Post and public meetings to collect funds for a monument to the great Volunteer. Comrades, do this with zeal and understanding.

The receipts of the Logan Monument Fund for the past week were:

Louis McL. Hamilton Post, 32, Graton, Ark.	\$10 00
W. W. Brown, Monticello, Ill.	50
Jas. R. Fulton Post, 257, Garden City, Mo.	2 50
Kali, .....	1 00
David Siegle, Oakford, Ill.	5 00
Seneca Post, 175, Seneca, Mo.	3 10
Reno Post, 29, Roseburg, Ore.	3 10
C. H. Blackburn, Cincinnati, O.	1 00
A. Almyer, Clare, Mich.	25
Mrs. R. Shaver, " "	25
Miss E. Shaver, " "	25
C. Van Bron, " "	25
Sam'l Gray, " "	25
Antietam Post, 53, Petaluma, Cal.	5 00
	29 65
Previously acknowledged.....	3,250 88
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>\$3,310 53</b>